

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00004 021606Z

51

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NEA-10 SCI-06 SCEM-02 INT-08 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 STR-08 FAA-00 IO-14 AID-20

DRC-01 ( ISO ) W

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P R 021535Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5901

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 04

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN TD US

SUBJECT:CIVAIR: GOTT WANTS SPECIAL FUEL TREATMENT FOR BWIA

REF: STATE 248152; POS 1668; POS 1663; POS A-123, DEC 21, 1973

1. PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE DEALT MAINLY WITH IMPLICATIONS OF ENERGY CRISIS FOR TRINIDAD (SEPTTEL). IN PARTICULAR HE STRESSED THAT BRITISH WEST INDIAN AIRWAYS (BWIA) WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TRINIDAD'S POSITION AS AN OIL PRODUCER TO EXPAND OPERATIONS AND ENSURE THE SMOOTH FLOW OF TOURIST TRAFFIC TO CARIBBEAN THIS SEASON (POS 1663). WILLIAMS TOLD THE PUBLIC, "WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH THE UNITED STATES THE QUESTION OF OUR MAKING AVAILABLE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A SEPARATE SUPPLY FROM OUR OIL EXPORTS FOR BWIA, SO THAT BWIA DOES NOT COME WITHIN THE SCOPE OF RESTRICTIONS ANNOUNCED IN THE UNITED STATES."

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2. COMMENT: THIS OF COURSE IS THE FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF

ANY SPECIFIC GOTT PROPOSAL THAT SEPARATE FUEL SUPPLIES BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR BWIA IN THE UNITED STATES, A PRIME CONCERN OF THE PM AS REPORTED IN POS 1668. NOT HAVING RECEIVED THE DEPT'S RESPONSE TO WILLIAMS' QUESTIONS POSED IN POS 1668, WE HAVE HELD OFF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOTT. PUBLICLY ANNOUNCING A POSITION AND AWAITING A REACTION IS A CHARACTERISTIC WILLIAMS TACTIC AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT HIS CONVICTION THAT SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDER WAY. HOWEVER, PASSAGE OF TIME WILL MAKE IT HARDER FOR US TO AFFECT GOTT THINKING EARLY IN THE GAME.

3. DESPITE THE PRIME MINISTER'S OPTIMISTIC REMARKS, BWIA HAS APPARENTLY NOT YET TAKEN STEPS TO EXPAND OPERATIONS, ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF LEASING ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT TO UNDERTAKE CHARTER-TYPE OPERATIONS. BWIA IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT ITS SUPPLY OF AVIATION FUEL IN THE US, AND THE GOTT UNDOUBTEDLY SEES ITS "PROPOSAL" AS A RELATIVELY PAINLESS WAY OF SECURING FUEL FOR BWIA WITHOUT INVOLVING FAVORITISM OR DISCRIMINATION BY THE USG. NEEDLESS TO SAY, SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD ALSO ENSURE ADEQUATE FUEL AVAILABILITY FOR US CARRIERS OPERATING TO RINIDAD, WHICH OTHERWISE MIGHT FACE A RECIPROCAL REDUCTION TO 85 PERCENT OF THEIR JANUARY 1972 LEVEL. AT THE MOMENT, PANAM HAS SUBMITTED TO THE GOTT ITS ESTIMATED FUEL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULARLY SCHEDULED FLIGHTS DURING JANUARY, BUT--ALTHOUGH FUEL IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS--THE REQUEST FOR THE ENTIRE MONTH HAS NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, EXPORTS, REFUELING, AIRLINES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 10 SEP 2002  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IVAIR: GOTT WANTS SPECIAL FUEL TREATMENT FOR BWIA  
**TAGS:** ETRN, ENRG, TD, US, BWIA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005